



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

***Salem, MA***

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Salem for a Brownfields Pilot. Salem (population 38,091) has experienced an increase in unemployment and a decline in its tax base as many of the city's tanneries and electronics manufacturers have gone out of business or relocated. When these businesses closed their facilities, they left behind properties suspected of being contaminated with hazardous substances, including arsenic, chromium, beryllium, and other heavy metals, as well as trichloroethylene (TCE) and other solvents. Because of these concerns, many of these sites are underused or completely abandoned.

One of the most prominent brownfields areas is the 132-acre Boston-Bridge-Mason Street corridor, an important gateway to downtown Salem. This area, which contains light industry, tanneries, and automotive businesses, is surrounded by low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. Residents here have not only lost jobs due to factory closings, but are also negatively impacted by the perception of contamination in the surrounding properties. Overall, Salem's per capita income is \$16,155, and its poverty rate is 11.9 percent.

## PILOT SNAPSHOT



Salem, Massachusetts

Date of Announcement:  
June 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets sites within the 132-acre Boston-Bridge-Mason Street corridor, an important gateway into Salem.

### Contacts:

City of Salem  
(978) 745-9595

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 573-9681

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnfl/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The Pilot's objective is to involve community stakeholders in the site-selection and assessment process, in order to coordinate the Pilot's activities with Salem's plans to clean up and redevelop the Boston–Bridge–Mason Street corridor. The city will use the Pilot and other revitalization and planning projects to improve the economic and environmental health of this important gateway into Salem. Through these efforts, the city hopes to provide jobs to community residents, clean up the environmental contamination, and restore property values.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Forming an advisory group comprising community stakeholders to assist with site selection and the creation of a cleanup and redevelopment timetable;
- Performing assessments at up to four priority sites; and
- Assisting with cleanup and redevelopment plans for the assessed sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.